

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus utilizing the encrypted information through decoding thereof corresponding to content of purchased right, comprising:

memory means for storing said encrypted information, usage control policy indicating content of purchased right and price tag for specifying price content corresponding to the content of said purchased right;

first generating means for generating usage control status including purchase history of said information on the basis of said usage control policy and said price tag being stored in said memory means;

setting means for setting usage history based on usage of said information to said usage control status; and

second generating means for, on the occasion of purchasing said right again, calculating an accounting price and generating accounting information including said accounting price based on said purchase history or said usage history and/or putting a limit on purchasable usage conditions based on said purchase history or said usage history.

2. An information processing method of an information processing apparatus utilizing the encrypted information through decoding thereof corresponding to content of

purchased right, comprising:

storing step for storing said encrypted information, usage control policy indicating content of the purchased right and price tag for specifying price content corresponding to content of said right;

first generating step for generating the usage control status including purchase history of said information based on said usage control policy and said price tag stored in said storing step;

setting step for setting usage history based on usage of said information to said usage control status; and

second generating step for, on the occasion of purchasing said right again, calculating an accounting price and generating accounting information including said accounting price based on said purchase history or said usage history and/or putting a limit on purchasable usage conditions based on said purchase history or said usage history.

3. A distribution medium is characterized in providing a computer-readable program making an information processing apparatus, which utilizes the encrypted information through decoding thereof corresponding to content of purchased right, execute the processes, comprising:

storing step for storing said encrypted information, usage control policy indicating content of the purchased right and price tag for specifying price content corresponding to content of said right;

first generating step for generating the usage control status including purchase history of said information based on said usage control policy and said price tag stored in said storing step;

setting step for setting usage history based on usage of said information to said usage control status; and

second generating step for, on the occasion of purchasing said right again, calculating an accounting price and generating accounting information including said accounting price based on said purchase history or said usage history and/or putting a limit on purchasable usage conditions based on said purchase history or said usage history.